WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

The Closed-Loop Scoop

Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

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Contents

The new solid waste handling rule is ready for review

The Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program has submitted the long-awaited Solid Waste Handling rule (Chapter 173-350 WAC) to the Washington State Code Reviser for publication in the state register.

The rule will undergo a 49-day review and comment period. After responding to comments, analyzing for economic and regulatory impact, and holding a teleconference-based public hearing, the rule will be adopted. That is expected to happen late this year or early next year.

The purpose of this rule is to provide solid waste handling standards that adequately address current conditions and statutory changes that resulted from legislation passed during the 1998 Legislative session. There have been many changes in how solid wastes are managed since the current rule, the Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling (MFS), chapter 173-304 WAC, was first promulgated in 1985.

In addition, waste management priorities have changed substantially, with waste reduction, beneficial use, and recycling being at the top of the hierarchy. Because the MFS was originally intended to address the priorities of the mid-1980s, it is significantly out of line with today's priorities. The current rule also fails to address technological advancements in environmental protection at solid waste disposal facilities. The new rule attempts to remedy these issues.

The existing rule first became effective on November 27, 1985. It was last amended in 1987.

Ecology began a substantive revision process in 1990. That effort was halted for a while, as other needs prevailed in order to maintain the EPA approval for the municipal landfill program. Ecology turned its attention back to the MFS in 1997.

The 1998 Washington State Legislature further shaped the focus of the rule revision with passage of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6203 and Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2960. Both bills stemmed from a study of the permit system that the Legislature directed Ecology to conduct in Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1419.

These bills were designed to encourage recycling and reuse and streamline the permit process in conjunction with the rollout of new compost and material recovery facilities standards.

The new rule deals with issues such as beneficial use, categorical exemptions, permit deferrals, simplified landfill criteria, compost facility standards, moderate risk waste handling, waste tires, surface impoundments and piles, administrative organization and readability, the appropriate incorporation of technical information memoranda, and consistency with the minimum functional standards for disposal facilities incorporated in Chapter 173-351 WAC.

Comments Must Be Recieved by
September 4, 2002
5:00 PM

For more information about the rule development process, contact Mike Hibbler, at (509) 456-3270, mhib461@ecy.wa.gov, or see a copy of the rule on the web at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/lawsrules/wac173304/p9924b.pdf

Sustainability in Washington state public schools

This award program is an adaption of the Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling in Public Schools Awards Program. The new program focuses more on sustainability and includes a category for helping schools with program start-up costs among other things.

One of the most critical issues that will face the children we teach will be the quality of the world they inherit. A school that both teaches and practices environmentally sustainable behavior will offer children and the local community important role models.

In practice, however, other education priorities have made it very difficult for teachers and schools to take on these responsibilities. Sometimes there may only be one teacher willing to take on the extra tasks and responsibilities. Without further support these teachers often find the process a losing battle. Teaching sustainability principles need not be a separate course. In fact, it might work better if they were treated as overriding principles incorporated into all studies.

Ecology intends to reward schools that embrace these principles through the Terry Husseman Sustainability in Public School Awards Program. This award program replaces the 14-year old Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling in Public Schools Award program.

A sustainable school program would have elements including, but not limited to, the following five areas:

1. Resource/Energy Conservation
2. Biological Diversity
3. Waste & Toxicity Reduction
4. Social Harmony
5. Health & Wellness

There are three categories of awards:

1. Seed Award

This is an award to encourage schools to take steps necessary to embrace the five areas of sustainability.

To assist schools with costs involved in initial start-up of basic sustainability programs or improvements of programs or projects that move them closer to sustainability.

2. Sustainable School Award

This Award recognizes schools that are implementing elements of the five areas.

3. Creative Environmental Curriculum Award

This award recognizes curriculum that:

- Introduces students, teachers, staff, & administrators to the concepts of sustainability including its social, economic, & environmental relevance; and/or
- Strives to instill sense of environmental stewardship in the students through curriculum.

Ecology also has staff across the state prepared to assist schools with their sustainability principles and waste reduction and recycling programs. Ecology staff can help schools perform waste audits and find the resources to develop school or district-wide sustainability programs.

The award cycle begins with the start of the 2002-2003 school year. Announcements will be sent in October and December, applications will be due in February, the judging and selection will happen in March, notice of the chosen applicants will occur in April and an award ceremony will be held in May.

For more information on the Sustainability in Public Schools Awards program, Contact Michelle Payne at (360) 407-6129 or email: mdav461@ecy.wa.gov or check for updates on the Awards web site http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa /terryhusseman.html.

Calendar of Events

Sept 12, 13, 14, 2002, The Association of Oregon Recyclers Fall Conference, "Still Chasing Arrows After 25 Years," will be held in Seaside, Oregon. Contact: 503-661-4475 or e-mail@aorr.org.

December 3 and 4, 2002, The Sustainability & Heavy Construction Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon. Contact: http://www.sustainableportland.org/events.html#dec-3. This conference will provide information and a forum for discussion on sustainable construction best practices and emerging technologies in the construction process. The conference is aimed at contractors, engineers, developers and others interested in sustainability and heavy construction. Conference topics will include drivers for sustainability in the construction industry, green building certification programs, use of fly ash and other wastes in concrete and roadbed materials, porous paving, specifying "greener" building materials, and deconstruction.

Pilot grants benefit all regions of our state

Many counties and cities have received additional funds from the state Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Coordinated Prevention Grant program to design and implement new and innovative programs that lead to waste prevention, reduction and recycling (WPRR).

The new grants are in addition to Coordinated Prevention Grants that Ecology awards every two years to help manage and enforce solid and hazardous waste programs at the county and city levels. The money comes from leftover funds that previous grant recipients around the state were not able to use.

"This extra money will be used for some very creative projects, such as recycling old electronics and studying alternatives for gardening and composting that are less toxic," said Cullen Stephenson, Ecology's solid waste manager.

The projects will start this summer, and will be completed by spring 2003.

The funds come from a tax paid by wholesale distributors of petroleum and other hazardous materials, under the voter-approved Toxic Cleanup Act of 1989. Projects funded are:

- The Asotin Health District was awarded $13,763 for use in local elementary schools, it will help school teachers use a new environmental curriculum.
- In Benton County, the city of Richland is getting $14,000 to sponsor a collection event for televisions, computer monitors, and other electronic waste. Collected materials will be recycled.
- The Chelan-Douglas Health District is getting $23,500 to design and carry out a fruit-waste study examining the beneficial use potential of waste apples as a soil amendment.
- Clallam County received $37,500 to study quantities and types of waste generated countywide. The results will be crucial in planning for the transport system necessary after the Port Angeles landfill closes in 2006.
- Clark County received two grants, one for $33,000 to study electronic waste and develop a recommendation for handling it. The second was $17,750 to develop and maintain a toxic-free garden at a Vancouver-area elementary school for educational and demonstration purposes.
- Grays Harbor County received $3,100 to establish an educational campaign that will encourage the use of safe alternatives to toxic substances in homes and yards. Demonstration kits will be distributed at the annual county fair in return for an agreement to participate in follow-up surveys.
- In King County, the city of Bellevue is getting $185,000 to implement sustainable building concepts at a local greenbelt ranger station. The city of Seattle will use $89,300 for food-composting and environmental-purchasing studies. King County Solid Waste will receive $89,200 to convert diesel trucks to run on biodiesel fuel derived from waste oil.
- Kitsap County received $11,000 to promote a thermometer exchange program that will assist residents wanting to exchange mercury fever thermometers with less toxic alternatives.
- Kittitas County Solid Waste received $27,757 to promote a thermometer exchange program in which residents will be able to exchange mercury fever thermometers for less toxic alternatives.
- Okanogan County Public Works will use its grant of $7,500 to set up collection sites for recycling ni-cad and other household batteries. Also in Okanogan County, the town of Twisp will use its grant of $47,598 to purchase a glass crusher and start recycling glass collected from the surrounding area.
- In Pierce County, the city of Tacoma received three grants: $114,000 for a mercury-reduction program aimed at homeowners; $18,750 to test a new organics composting facility that will combine food and yard wastes from single-family homes, apartment complexes, florists, restaurants and grocery stores; and $37,500 to promote "green" building practices in Tacoma and with local contractors.
- San Juan County will use its grant of $435,985 to construct a reuse and recycling facility in Friday Harbor.
- Snohomish County received $88,500 to sponsor collection drives for televisions, computer monitors, and other electronic waste. The collected materials will be recycled, and the county will work cooperatively with other agencies to develop more-sustainable procurement and handling procedures for electronic waste.
- Thurston County received four grants: $2,150 to develop a student-driven recycling program that will reduce a middle school's waste by one dumpster per week, $11,250 to pay for transferring reusable building materials that are dropped off at the county's waste-recovery center, $28,000 to control and prevent clopyralid-contaminated compost from being used on plants susceptible to damage (clopyralid is a long-lasting chemical in found in lawn control products), and $17,600 to raise awareness about the dangers of mercury and start a mercury-thermometer exchange program.
- Walla Walla Regional Planning Department, the Walla Walla County Health Department and the Columbia County Health District will share three grants totaling $507,725. Some of the money will be used to build a food-waste composting facility at the state penitentiary and a

"This extra money will be used for some very creative projects, such as recycling old electronics and studying alternatives for gardening and composting that are less toxic," said Cullen Stephenson, Ecology's solid waste manager.

Pilot Grants, continued...

permanent yard-waste composting facility at the existing Sudbury landfill site, giving residents a place to compost their green yard waste. The Walla Walla County Regional Planning Department will purchase several cardboard recycling bins for downtown businesses and use $2,500 to help sponsor the "Renewable Energy Festival" next autumn.

- Yakima County Public Works was awarded a total of $123,000 for several projects. Funding will be used to study what wastes are generated by residential, agricultural and industrial activities. The money will pay for a tube crusher to be located at the Household Hazardous Waste facility, so residents will have a place to drop off fluorescent lighting tubes where they can be safely crushed, capturing and recycling both the mercury within and the glass. Funding also will cover the costs of classes for gardeners who wish to learn about xeriscaping, integrated pest management, and other practices that use less water and pesticides and reuse organic matter. Lastly, the money will go into educational efforts aimed at Selah schoolchildren and their parents and designed to increase participation in Selah's curbside recycling program.

For more information, contact Steve Loftness (360) 407-6060 slof461@ecy.wa.gov Or visit Ecology's Solid Waste Web site: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/index.html

A rock and a hard place

A conversation-inciting editorial column by Jim Bill

In April, McDonald's introduced its Social Responsibility Report. Worldwide in scope, it addresses issues of community involvement, the environment and working conditions.

The report describes many successes the company has achieved, both in its own operations and in the operations of its suppliers. In partnership with the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, McDonald's has begun "to implement sustainable agriculture and conservation practices and standards within McDonald's global food supply network."[1]

Partnership with Environmental Defense (http://www.environmentaldefense.org/home.cfm) has led to progress in source reduction and recycled content for McDonald's packaging. And McDonald's has recently adopted a sustainability strategy as a result of working with The Natural Step (http://www.naturalstep.org/). These are but a few of the positive changes noted in the report.

The report has, however, met with criticism.

Paul Hawken of the Natural Capital Institute maintains that McDonald's operates on an unsustainable premise: globalized monoculture, both in diet and means of production. Appearing in *Ethical Corporation Magazine*[2], Hawken's article finds the McDonald's diet unhealthy, primarily due to fat and sugar content. The means of production involve factory-scale agriculture and long-distance distribution systems.

Hawken says that McDonald's standardized menu has long encouraged the centralization of food production, processing and distribution. According to Hawken, these practices are not sustainable and have led to both environmental and nutritional degradation. How it is packaged does not resolve these deeper issues, say Hawken and others.

For its part, the McDonald's report states, "We realize McDonald's is sometimes used by critics of globalization as a symbol for addressing their issues, which go beyond McDonald's scope. In essence, we are a network of local businesses owned by local entrepreneurs, who hire local people, and purchase from regional and national suppliers and service companies."[3]

Is McDonald's making token efforts to appear in tune with the evolving ethos of sustainability, or are its efforts sincere steps toward a genuine shift in corporate behavior? That's what's on the issue-menu for this edition. This type of balance is what we struggle with in our day-to-day effort. We all have our dietary choices to make, and how we choose is as personal, and as important, as how we vote. But we can't avoid the choice unless we stop eating.

It's food for thought. Choose what you can swallow and make sure to chew.

1. Corporate Press Releases. 4/15/2002: McDonald's Issues First Worldwide Social Responsibility Report. Accessible on the Internet at http://www.mcdonalds.com/corporate/press/corporate/2002/04152002/04152002.html.

2. Hawken, Paul. Comment: McDonald's and corporate social responsibility? Ethical Corporation Magazine. Accessible on the Internet at http://www.ethicalcorp.com/printtemplate.asp?idnum=226 .

3. McDonald's Social Responsibility Report. Accessible on the Internet at http://www.mcdonalds.com/corporate/social/report/index.html p. 12.

From waste the worth

Jay Shepard, Sustainability Strategist

""A clever person solves a problem, a wise person avoids it." Albert Einstein.

Do you roll your eyes and shake your head when you hear someone mention "zero waste," writing that person off as a wild-eyed idealist? If so, please read on; if not, please read on, anyway.

When is waste not waste? When it is continually reused and remains in an industrial or manufacturing cycle or is returned to the earth in a biological cycle. True, we will always have waste products. Biological organisms, by their very nature, create waste. However, we can create and use wastes in a way that is safe and beneficial for human health and the environment.

Take a look at a tree. It sheds its leaves in the fall. Over time those leaves become rich humus providing nutrients for the tree as well as other plants. The tree's waste–foliage–is returned to the earth safely. Zero waste replicates this cycle.

Right now, the way we are operating as a society makes this concept almost impossible to replicate. In order to have a zero-waste society, we don't have to really "give up" our life style, as much as we have to transform it. We need to become a society of conscious consumers, consumers that understand the impacts of the products used and what to do with them at the end of their usefulness.

The first and most important thing we need to do is to improve the quality of the waste stream and transform it to a materials stream. As is, our current system cannot fully recover and use these materials because they are mixed, composite, or toxic. When a material is fused with another in a way that it cannot be easily teased apart, both materials are rendered useless for any further use. They contaminate one another, if you will.

Take, for example, a cotton and polyester blend tee shirt. Both materials by themselves are completely recyclable. Mixed, they are bound and cannot be used for their original purpose. They may be "down-cycled" temporarily–used as a rag for example. But by this approach we eliminate the ability to maintain the material in an ongoing cycle of use and renewal. We cannot reuse the cotton for a new shirt, or put it into paper, or even compost it. The polyester is useless in the combined form. The only final destination for this material is a sanitary landfill. There it will be monitored beyond our lifetimes.

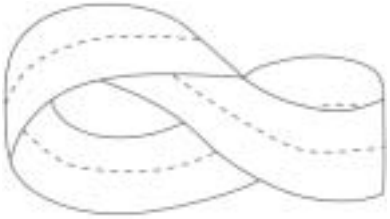
The idea here is to keep the artificial or synthetic apart from the organic or biological. If biological materials were mixed with each other but not with the artificial or synthetic, they could be recycled, reused or composted. All three alternatives are acceptable. None would negatively impact human health or the environment.

If we keep synthetic or artificial materials separate, we can recover and reuse them in a consumer product again. The problem with synthetics is that in composite form they cannot be easily separated to be used again for their original purpose. An example could be a snack chip bag. These bags are made of multiple layers of a variety of plastics and in some cases metal. It is impossible, practically and economically, to recover the component materials and use them again.

All right, you might say, this is all well and good. But there is garbage at the gate that we need to manage right now.

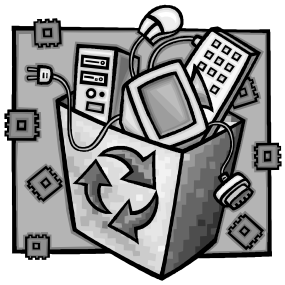
If we continue to look only at the needs of today, the future will remain as today. As a problem, those needs will only grow in size and complexity. Part of our job must be to look at what the future could hold. The future could hold zero waste. What can we do today to help make zero waste a reality tomorrow? What will get us there? You can help. Your choice.

(Check this website for examples of cotton and polyester recycling: http://www.kingston.ac.uk/rematerialise/index-type-textiles.htm).



Ecology eases recycling barriers for computer monitors

"Ecology will use its enforcement discretion and not enforce the Dangerous Waste Regulations if you are following the requirements in the policy."



If you have questions about this policy, call

Ty Thomas (360) 407-7858
Tom Cusack (360) 407-6756
Chipper Hervieux (360) 407-6756

For information on Ecology's product stewardship work, call

Patricia Jatczak (360) 407-6358

Ecology has issued a written enforcement policy* to make it easier to recycle your computer monitors. This policy reduces the regulatory burden for those who recycle their computer monitors that contain cathode ray tubes (CRTs). Lead in computer monitors is the main reason they are a concern to Ecology.

Ecology will evaluate how well this approach is working prior to development of a regulation to take the place of the policy. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just proposed their rule for management of this waste stream. Evaluation of both the federal regulation and Ecology's pilot approach will be used to determine an appropriate regulatory approach for Washington.

The policy includes requirements for generators, transporters, and those who collect, accumulate, and dismantle CRTs and related equipment. If related to a personal computer, other electronic wastes that designate may be managed under this policy. The following is a list of policy highlights.

Televisions and computer monitors that contain CRTs:

- Must be recycled (e.g., glass to glass or smelter).
- May be sent to an intermediary who collects and dismantles.
- Do not need to be manifested.
- Do not need to be counted.
- Must be accumulated in a way to minimize breakage.
- May not be accumulated for more than 180 days.
- If disposed of, must comply with Dangerous Waste Regulations.
- Must comply with applicable local and other state laws.

Dismantlers are subject to additional requirements. For more information, including websites and recyclers, see the policy itself (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0204017.pdf)

Disposal

CRTs that are intended to be disposed of (rather than recycled) at any point in the process and residues from these activities must be properly designated and managed under the existing requirements for dangerous wastes and solid waste. Ecology will enforce proper designation and management under the existing dangerous waste requirements for these wastes.

Circuit boards

Circuit boards that are being recycled are already addressed in the Dangerous Waste Regulations. Spent printed circuit boards may be managed under the scrap metal exemption.

Reuse

If your computer equipment can be reused by someone else, it is not considered a waste. Reuse is a good way to keep equipment out of the waste stream.

The final enforcement policy can be found at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0204017.pdf or you can call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752, dzin461@ecy.wa.gov, for a paper copy. This policy will be in place until it needs to be modified or until a rule is drafted and proposed.

We are continuing to work on the issue of computer/electronic wastes from different angles, including involvement in both national and regional product stewardship initiatives and pursuit of environmentally preferable purchasing options. This policy is only one part of an overall strategy for addressing computer related wastes. It makes it easier for those who recycle their equipment. Important to note is that this policy applies only to equipment that is recycled. Full dangerous waste regulatory requirements will continue to be in effect for waste that is disposed of.

Starting Monday, September 1, 2002, the Washington Department of Ecology will begin accepting applications for the 2003-05 biennial-funding cycle. These grants make it easier for people to be involved in two types of waste issues: cleanup of hazardous waste sites and carrying out the state's solid and hazardous waste management priorities (the main focus is reducing the amount of waste created).

Based upon current revenue forecasts, an estimated total of $900,000 is available for new grants. Grants can range from $1,000 to $60,000 per fiscal year. Groups of three or more unrelated individuals and not-for-profit public-interest organizations can qualify for a grant. Businesses and government agencies, Indian tribes and universities do not qualify. The application period closes Thursday, October 31, 2002. The guidelines and application packet can be requested from1-800-RECYCLE or from Ecology's Publications Web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0207016.html.

Department of Ecology

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